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NORTH CAROLINA

Farm Report

COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

NO. 116

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CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
MAY 25 1952
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AUGUST GENERAL FARM REPORT

CROP PROSPECTS REDUCED BY JULY DROUGHT

Results of the drought are reflected in August 1 crop prospects. The August 1 estimate for flue-cured tobacco was 10 percent below that of July 1 and 12.7 percent under the record 1951 crop. Corn prospects were off 14 percent from July 1 and the smallest since 1944. Hay production prospects also dropped 14 percent during the month but rains since August 1 have certainly improved the outlook. Sweet-potato production was indicated by growers to be off 15 percent from July 1 and 5 percent under 1951 output. The first forecast of the 1952 cotton crop indicates a crop of 510,000 bales, 32,000 short of the 1951 crop. The first forecast for soybeans indicates the lowest yield in 6 years from a record 303,000 acres. Peanut yield prospects were more favorable with a yield of 1,250 pounds indicated acreage for harvest, however, is the smallest since 1933.

SMALLEST CORN CROP SINCE 1944

A 55,075,000 bushel corn crop is in prospect for North Carolina as of August 1. Such a crop would be the smallest since 1944 -- 12,536,000 bushels or 19 percent below production last year and 8 percent below average. An aver-

(Continued on Page 3)

JULY WEATHER SUMMARY

Following on the heels of an unusually hot and dry June, July, 1952, brought a continuation of both heat and drought to North Carolina. During the first half of the month the heat was only seasonable. During the last half

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Raleigh, N. C.

AUGUST 15, 1952

NORTH CAROLINA FLUE-CURED CROP DOWN 92 MILLION POUNDS

The 1952 North Carolina flue-cured tobacco crop is estimated at 853,040,000 pounds, 124,600,000 pounds or 12.7 percent less than the record 1951 crop of 977,640,000 pounds and compares with the 1941-50 average North Carolina flue-cured production of 722,736,000 pounds and the 1950 crop of 858,140,000 pounds. The decrease in this year's flue-cured crop would be more pronounced if growers had not planted 8,000 more acres than last year. This estimate is based on reports from growers showing the condition of the crop as of August 1. Hence, any improvement in the crop as the result of rains since August 1 may not be fully reflected in this estimate.

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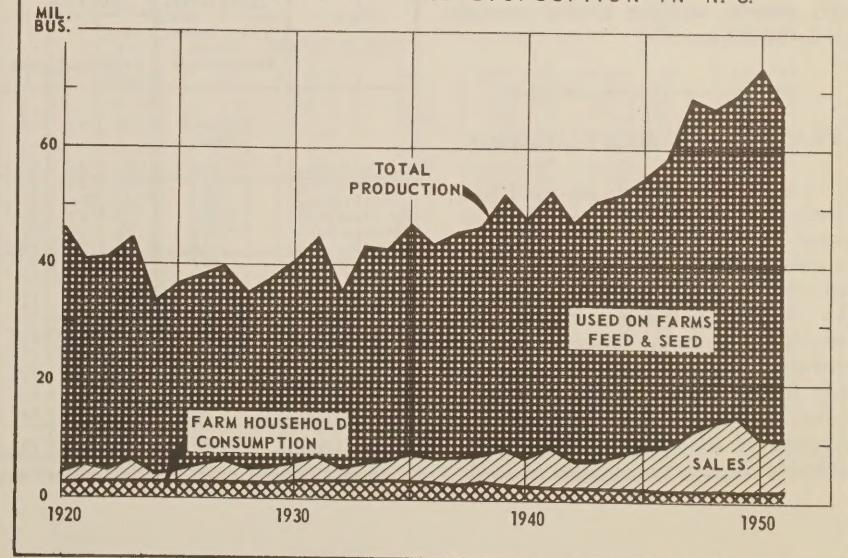
AUGUST 1, 1952 COTTON REPORT

As of August 1, the North Carolina 1952 cotton crop is estimated at 510,000 bales (500-pounds gross weight). This is 32,000 bales below production in 1951 and compares with the 10-year average of 523,000 bales. This report is based upon information from cotton growers throughout the State.

Growing season was favorable for cotton over most of the State until July 1. Since that date and particularly since July 15, hot, dry weather has reduced prospects considerably. High temperatures have caused heavy losses through shedding of squares, small bolls and premature opening of bolls, especially in southern areas. In many areas high temperatures have caused

(Continued on Page 2)

CORN PRODUCTION AND DISPOSITION IN N. C.



FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

Drought conditions during June and July, particularly July, reduced fruit prospects considerably. In general all fruit had a good set this year, but the unusual dry condition has prevented normal sizing. In addition, hail damage this year was more extensive than usual in the main commercial apple producing areas.

The August 1 forecast now places North Carolina commercial apple production at 1,628,000 bushels compared with 1,269,000 bushels last year and the 10-year average of 1,090,000 bushels.

Peach production is now estimated at 1,541,000 bushels, 15 percent below the 1951 crop of 1,806,000 bushels and 17 percent below the 10-year average of 1,867,000 bushels. Harvesting of the commercial portion of the State's crop is drawing to a close. Movement of the Elberta crop in the Sandhills section reached its peak around August 4. The extended drought period and high temperatures caused some damage to the quality of the Elberta crop. Some fruit was badly sunburned by abnormally high temperatures. Size generally was below normal.

The 1952 pear crop is estimated at 155,000 bushels, 1,000 bushels above production last year, but 47,000 bushels below average. Prospective grape production showed slight improvement during the month. Production for the State is now estimated at 2,900 tons. This is 9 percent or 300 tons under 1951 production and 27 percent below average. The first forecast of the season placed North Carolina's 1952 pecan crop at 2,090,000 pounds. This compares with the 1951 crop of 2,435,000 pounds, and the 10-year average of 2,414,000 pounds.

PEANUT CROP ABOVE AVERAGE

According to reports received from North Carolina's peanut growers indicated August 1 condition of peanuts is above average. In spite of the dry, hot weather experienced over most of the State this summer, the weather pattern to date in the important peanut producing area has been mostly favorable for peanuts. Planting was done under ideal conditions and weather immediately following was especially favorable for good germination of seed.

Therefore stands are exceptionally good. The dry summer season aided in producing one of the cleanest crops of records.

As of August 1 prospects were for an average yield of 1,250 pounds per acre compared to 1,330 pounds last year and the average of 1,090 pounds. It is estimated that 199,000 acres are being grown for picking and threshing this season. This is 16 percent fewer acres than in 1951 and the smallest picked and threshed acreage since the 190,000 acres harvested in 1933.

AUGUST COTTON REPORT (Cont'd)

much more damage than dry weather. Boll weevil damage was held in check to mid-July by control programs and hot weather. After July 15 many growers discontinued their dusting or spraying schedule, and around August 1 boll weevils were quite active in many fields. Recent good rains over all of the State's cotton belt may improve prospects on late plantings, but are expected to cause further shedding on some of the early plantings.

Assuming average abandonment after July 1, the acreage for harvest this year would be 690,000 acres - the same as harvested last year.

Lint yield, indicated as of August 1, is 355 pounds, compared with 376 pounds last year and the average of 341 pounds.

The U. S. cotton crop is estimated at 14,735,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight, 3 percent smaller than last year, but 25 percent above average. Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California are the only important cotton producing states where prospects are for a crop larger than harvested last year.

HAY PROSPECTS DECLINE

Dry weather and extremely high temperatures during July reduced hay prospects in North Carolina. The 1952 hay crop is estimated at 1,002,000 tons, as of August 1. This is 159,000 tons less than the July 1 estimate, and compares with the 1951 crop of 1,225,000 tons and the 10-year average of 1,266,000 tons.

The first cutting of alfalfa hay was generally good; however, hot-dry weather retarded or stopped growth and some growers failed to get a second cutting at the usual time.

The hot-dry weather reduced lespedeza stands and retarded growth during June and July; however, both lespedeza and alfalfa have made good response to recent rains offering some hope that yields may turn out better than now indicated.

Retail food prices in the first half of this year averaged a little higher than a year earlier. In the first quarter consumers spent a slightly larger share of their disposable income for food than in the 3 preceding quarters.

COTTON: CONDITION, ESTIMATED ACREAGE FOR HARVEST AND PRODUCTION, AUGUST 1, 1952, ALL STATES

STATE	AREA IN CULTIVATION JULY 1, 1952 LESS 10-YR. AVERAGE ABANDONMENT 1/	AUGUST 1 CONDITION			LINT YIELD PER HARVESTED ACRE			PRODUCTION (GINNINGS) ² 500-LB. GROSS WT. BALES		
		AVER- AGE 1941- 1950	1951	1952	AVER- AGE 1941- 1950	1951	INDI- CATED 1952	AVER- AGE 1941- 1950	1951 CROP	1952 CROP INDI- CATED AUG. 1
	THOUSAND ACRES	PCT.	PCT.	PCT.	—	—	—	THOUS BALES	THOUS BALES	THOUS BALES
N. CAROLINA...	690	78	86	84	341	376	355	523	542	510
MISSOURI....	483	79	63	83	406	302	407	362	309	410
VIRGINIA....	21	83	90	85	364	357	343	21	14	15
S. CAROLINA...	1,070	74	81	70	29.3	389	327	651	871	730
GEORGIA....	1,385	72	75	66	236	317	267	666	931	770
FLORIDA....	52	74	80	74	180	250	222	13	32	24
TENNESSEE...	889	78	75	68	373	334	297	549	534	500
ALABAMA....	1,471	75	73	62	277	299	255	899	909	780
MISSISSIPPI...	2,328	77	81	74	333	329	299	1,652	1,608	1,450
ARKANSAS...	1,831	76	76	66	339	295	275	1,373	1,249	1,050
LOUISIANA...	875	72	85	77	290	391	362	524	760	660
OKLAHOMA....	1,164	72	82	78	166	150	173	455	462	420
TEXAS....	10,942	77	67	72	183	166	184	3,020	4,074	4,200
NEW MEXICO...	293	90	92	94	485	415	457	157	273	285
ARIZONA....	666	92	91	95	489	705	750	250	803	1,040
CALIFORNIA...	1,398	92	90	93	606	640	645	627	1,765	1,880
OTHER STATES	15	78	70	94	390	246	363	14	8	11
U.S.	25,493	77	6	75	267.6	271.9	277.4	1,775	15,144	14,735

^{1/} From natural causes. ^{2/} Allowances made for interstate ginning

CORN CROP (continued)

age yield of 25.0 bushels per acre is forecast, compared with 31.0 bushels last year and the record 33.0 bushels per acre harvested in 1950. Such a yield would be the lowest for the State since 1945 and the first time since 1946 that the average has gone below 30 bushels per acre. The 10-year average yield is 26.5 bushels per acre.

Drought damage is evident in all sections of the State. Corn in the Piedmont was especially hard hit. Intensive heat prevented proper pollination and even in the better fields ears are poorly filled. Recent rains will help late corn to some extent, but the bulk of the crop is past the stage for material recovery.

DROUGHT CUTS SWEETPOTATO CROP

A North Carolina sweetpotato crop of 3,570,000 bushels is estimated as of August 1. This is a reduction of 15 percent from the July 1 forecast, 5 percent below the 1951 crop of 3,760,000 bushels and 48 percent below average production of 6,850,000 bushels.

Yield is now placed at 85 bushels per acre, compared with a 94 bushel average in 1951 and the 10-year average of 106 bushels. Such a yield if realized, would be the smallest produced in this State since 1932. However, rains just preceding and following August 1 could improve the outlook for this crop materially.

Cattle prices are likely to stay below a year earlier through fall,

SOYBEAN YIELD PROSPECTS

Based on August 1 reports from soybean producers in North Carolina, prospective yield for soybeans is placed at 12.5 bushels the lowest of the past 6 years. This is 4 bushels below the record yield of 16.5 bushels realized last year and compares with the ten year average yield of 12.9 bushels. Rainfall received since August 1 has been beneficial since the crop is now blooming and setting pods.

If farmers hold to their intentions for utilization of the total estimated acreage of soybeans planted this year, a record high of 303,000 acres will be harvested for beans this season. This is 3,000 acres more than was harvested last year and 60,000 acres above the ten-year average.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES, ACREAGE, YIELD & PRODUCTION OF CROPS 1951 AND INDICATED AUGUST 1, 1952

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE			YIELD			PRODUCTION			
		AVERAGE 1941-50*	HARVESTED 1951	INDICATED 1952	AVERAGE 1941-50	1951	INDICATED 1952	AVERAGE 1941-50	REVISED 1951	INDICATED 1952	
THOUSAND										UNITS	
NORTH CAROLINA											
CORN, ALL.....	BU.	2,253	2,181	2,203	26.5	31.0	25.0	59,560	67,611	55,075	
WHEAT, ALL.....	BU.	435	381	377	15.4	23.0	21.0	6,693	8,763	7,917	
OATS.....	BU.	341	402	402	27.6	35.5	35.0	9,495	14,271	14,070	
BARLEY.....	BU.	38	35	34	25.0	36.0	32.0	938	1,260	1,088	
RYE.....	BU.	29	15	14	11.8	14.0	15.0	330	210	210	
SORGHUMS, FOR GRAIN.....	BU.	11	33	45	25.8	30.0	23.0	290	990	1,035	
TOBACCO, FLUE-CURED.....	LBS.	645.3	738	746	1,120	1,325	1,148	722,736	977,840	853,040	
TYPE 11.....	LBS.	252.3	290	293	1,049	1,170	1,000	267,018	339,300	293,000	
TYPE 12.....	LBS.	316.8	356	360	1,159	1,435	1,225	368,522	510,860	441,000	
TYPE 13.....	LBS.	76.2	92	93	1,137	1,385	1,280	87,198	127,480	119,040	
TYPE 31.....	LBS.	9.7	12.2	12.6	1,420	1,750	1,400	14,098	21,350	17,640	
COTTON.....	LBS.	739	698	b/ 690	341	376	355	a/ 523	a/ 542	a/ 510	
IRISH POTATOES, ALL.....	BU.	78	49	49	126	141	117	9,572	6,909	5,733	
SWEETPOTATOES, ALL.....	BU.	65	40	42	106	94	85	6,850	3,760	3,570	
SOYBEANS GROWN ALONE.....	BU.	392	439	439	-	-	-	-	-	-	
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS.....	BU.	243	300	303	12.8	16.5	13.0	3,142	4,950	3,939	
PEANUTS GROWN ALONE.....	LBS.	293	250	212	-	-	-	-	-	-	
PEANUTS PICKED & THRESHED.....	LBS.	276	237	199	1,090	1,330	1,260	299,494	315,210	248,750	
HAY, ALL.....	TONS	1,259	1,214	1,147	1.01	1.01	.87	1,266	1,225	1,002	
CLOVER & TIMOTHY.....	TONS	89	108	108	1.14	1.10	1.00	102	119	108	
ALFALFA HAY.....	TONS	24	60	59	2.08	2.00	1.85	52	120	109	
LESPEDEZA HAY.....	TONS	499	498	468	1.09	.95	.70	544	473	328	
PASTURE, CONDITION.....	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	86	79	48	
PEACHES, ALL.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,867	1,806	1,541	
APPLES, COMMERCIAL.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,090	1,269	1,628	
PEARS.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	202	154	155	
GRAPES.....	TONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.1	3.2	2.9	
PECANS, ALL.....	LBS.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,414	2,435	2,090	
UNITED STATES											
CORN, ALL.....	BU.	86,909	81,306	82,232	34.7	36.2	38.1	3,011,652	2,941,423	3,135,689	
WHEAT, ALL.....	BU.	45,245	39,762	50,278	17.7	16.2	21.1	799,977	645,469	1,062,590	
OATS.....	BU.	39,667	36,454	38,682	33.0	36.1	32.7	1,310,736	1,316,396	1,266,025	
BARLEY.....	BU.	12,315	9,391	8,226	24.9	27.1	26.5	306,127	254,668	218,047	
RYE.....	BU.	2,294	1,733	1,350	12.1	12.4	11.7	28,095	21,410	15,759	
SORGHUMS, FOR GRAIN.....	BU.	7,100	8,449	5,229	18.4	18.9	14.0	132,598	159,265	73,149	
TOBACCO, ALL.....	LBS.	1,630.1	1,781.4	1,789.8	1,124	1,307	1,140	1,841,869	2,328,226	2,040,172	
TOBACCO, FLUE-CURED.....	LBS.	957.6	1,113.1	1,125.6	1,103	1,304	1,142	1,064,300	1,451,965	1,285,620	
COTTON.....	LBS.	21,533	27,917	b/ 25,493	267.6	271.9	277.4	a/ 11,775	a/ 15,144	a/ 14,735	
IRISH POTATOES, ALL.....	BU.	2,401.0	1,353.1	1,418.2	180.4	240.7	236.5	414,525	325,708	355,421	
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	625.0	308.0	337.7	93.0	91.8	83.7	57,703	28,278	28,268	
SOYBEANS GROWN ALONE.....	BU.	12,788	14,838	15,291	-	-	-	-	-	-	
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS.....	BU.	10,349	13,211	13,906	19.4	21.2	19.0	202,068	280,512	264,395	
PEANUTS, GROWN ALONE.....	LBS.	3,650	2,597	2,046	-	-	-	-	-	-	
PEANUTS, PICKED & THRESHED.....	LBS.	2,940	2,018	1,665	708	831	704	2,042,448	1,678,125	1,172,300	
HAY, ALL.....	TONS	74,536	74,718	75,400	1.36	1.45	1.32	101,072	108,461	99,546	
ALFALFA.....	TONS	15,562	18,969	19,075	2.20	2.26	2.12	34,283	42,937	40,430	
CLOVER & TIMOTHY.....	TONS	21,934	21,457	21,632	1.38	1.49	1.39	30,242	32,035	30,054	
LESPEDEZA.....	TONS	6,484	6,990	6,912	1.07	1.07	.70	6,926	7,479	4,631	
PASTURE CONDITION.....	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	83	86	69	
PEACHES.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	68,186	63,627	61,347	
APPLES.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	110,380	110,660	98,122	
PEARS.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,306	30,028	29,902	
GRAPES.....	TONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	? 807.7	3,385.8	2,942.9	
PECANS, ALL.....	LBS.	-	-	-	-	-	-	123,206	154,895	116,566	

a/ 500 lb. gross weight bales. b/ Area in cultivation July 1, 1952 less 10-year average abandonment from natural causes

FARM REPORT

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AUGUST 15, 1952

FARM REPORT

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JULY WEATHER SUMMARY (Cont'd)

of the month a series of heat waves struck the State, breaking all previous high temperature records over large areas, and bringing the average temperature for the month up among the highest on record. Meanwhile, all rain that fell during the first 28 days of July came as scattered thundershowers, giving heavy downpours to a few localities, and leaving the greater part of the State's area drier and drier as the days passed. The final three days of the month brought an increase in the thundershower activity, so that important rains fell on nearly all the State. These rains brought the average July rainfall up close to the normal amount.

The persistency of the heat is best illustrated by the fact that afternoon temperatures over large areas of the Piedmont and interior Coastal Plain reached 90 degrees or higher every day of July after the 11th. A steady climb began on the 15th leading to scattered readings of 100 degrees on the 19th and 20th; then on the following three days temperatures of 100 or higher were a daily occurrence over all the State except the mountains and a few protected localities. Mercury readings up to 105 or 107 occurred in the warmer interior sections, breaking records that in some cases had been established last month. Slight relief came briefly on the week end of 26-27, only to be followed by two more days as hot as the hottest. On the afternoon of the 29th numerous thunderstorms broke out around the State. This was repeated on the 30th and 31st, and the heat wave was finally broken. So was the drought except in the southern mountains and a few scattered localities.

NORTH CAROLINA FLUE-CURED TOBACCO (Continued)

Extended dry weather and extremely high temperatures during June and July damaged the crop in most areas. The extent of such damage varied considerably, since some farms in a given area report better prospects than last year. The dry, hot weather caused upper leaves to scald and bottom leaves to burn. The dry weather retarded or checked growth altogether. In some instances early set tobacco had been harvested prior to the receipt of rain around August 1.

Average yield of the total flue-cured crop is estimated at 1,143 pounds per acre, compared with the record average flue-cured yield of 1,325 pounds in 1951 and the 1941-50 average yield of 1,120 pounds.

Type 11 production is estimated at 293,000,000 pounds, 46,300,000 pounds or 13.6 percent less than 1951 production, but 25,984,000 pounds or 9.7 percent above the 1941-50 average production of 267,016,000 pounds. The average yield is estimated at 1,000 pounds, compared with the 1951 yield of 1,170 pounds and the 1941-50 yield of 1,049 pounds.

Production of Type 12 tobacco is estimated at 441,000,000 pounds. This compares with 510,860,000 pounds last year and the 1941-50 average production of 368,522,000 pounds. Yield is estimated at 1,225 pounds per acre compared with the record of 1,435 pounds last year and the 1941-50 average of 1,159 pounds.

Type 13 production is estimated at 119,040,000 pounds, 8,440,000 pounds or 6.6 percent less than last year's crop of 127,480,000 pounds, but 36.5 percent or 31,842,000 pounds above the 1941-50 average production of 87,198,000 pounds. Estimated yield per acre is 1,280 pounds compared with the 1951 record yield of 1,385 pounds and the 1941-50 average yield of 1,137 pounds.

The 1952 North Carolina Burley crop is estimated at 17,640,000 pounds compared with 21,350,000 pounds last year and the 10-year average production of 14,098,400 pounds. The yield per acre is estimated at 1,400 pounds compared with 1,750 pounds last year and the 1941-50 average of 1,420 pounds.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING JULY, 1952

